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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,006	07/03/2003	Ko-Chien Chuang	CHUA3040/EM	3380
23364	7590	06/23/2005	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			BUI, HUNG S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2841	

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/612,006

Applicant(s)

CHUANG, KO-CHIEN

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sokoloff [US 6,567,677] in view of Lookofsky [US 5,416,730].

Regarding claims 1-3 and 7-8, Sokoloff discloses a housing assembly for an electronic device (figures 3a-3d), comprising:

- a base housing (200) having a pivot side and an inner operating surface (display, 130);
- a pivot housing (100) connected pivotally to the pivot side of the base housing (figure 3c) and having an outer operating surface (keyboard, 135), and an inner surface opposite to the outer operating surface, the pivot housing being rotatable relative to the base housing about a first axis (figures 3c-3d) such that the pivot housing is operable so as to move from a closed position, where the inner surface of the pivot housing is disposed to confront the inner operating surface of the base housing, to an open position, where the inner surface of the pivot housing is spaced apart from the inner operating surface of the base housing (figure 3c); and

- a rotatable main housing (106) disposed adjacent to the base housing and the pivot housing and connected rotatably to the pivot housing (figure 3c), the main housing being rotatable relative to the pivot housing about a second axis parallel to the first axis when the pivot housing is disposed in the open position (figures 3c-3d).

Sokoloff discloses everything claimed except the specific arrangement of the operating surfaces.

Lookofsky discloses an electronic device having a plurality of pivotable housings supporting operating surface (figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the arrangement of the operating surfaces of Sokoloff could have been modified relative to each other, as suggested by Lookofsky, in order to accommodate various functions and application.

Regarding claim 4, Sokoloff discloses a speaker (105) being mounted on the housing assembly (figure 3c-3d).

Regarding claim 5, Sokoloff discloses a microphone being mounted on the housing assembly (abstract).

Regarding claim 6, Sokoloff discloses a camera (140) being mounted on the housing assembly.

Regarding claims 9-10, Sokoloff discloses the pivot housing has a first side connected pivotally to the pivot side of the base housing, and a second side transverse to the first side, the main housing being connected rotatably to the second side of the

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pivot housing and the second axis is disposed at a center of the second side (figures 3c and 3d).

Regarding claim 11, Sokoloff discloses the main housing has a third side parallel to the pivot side of the base housing and transverse to the second side of the pivot housing, the pivot side of the base housing having a length equal to sum of a length of the third side of the main housing and that of the first side of the pivot housing (figures 3c-3d).

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Karidis [US 5,926,364] discloses a trifold personal computer with touchpad and keyboard; and
- Bowen [US 5,644,338] discloses ergonomic laptop computer and ergonomic keyboard.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

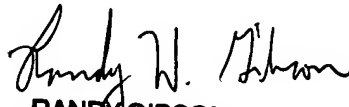
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

6/20/05

*Hung Bui*

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RANDY GIBSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER